

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the subject application.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

The Applicants have inserted a specific reference to the earlier filed application from which the Applicants claim priority.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The Applicants amended claims 3, 6, 11, 12, 13, and 18. No new matter has been added. The Applicants have added claims 23-20. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) REJECTION

In the priority Application # 09/984,931, the Examiner rejected claim 1 in an April 21, 2003 Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,231,176 to Peter (hereafter Peter). Applicant traverses.

Claim 1 defines a printing apparatus comprising:

a printing zone for printing in a substantially horizontal orientation; and a heated media deflector configured to guide and dry the media, the heated media deflector located downstream of the horizontal printing zone.

Peter describes a printer 10 having a roll 36 and a roll 34 to advance a sheet 16 into a printing zone 38 (col. 3 lines 60-63). The printer 10 has a heater assembly 52 to heat the sheet 16 **before** the sheet is in the print zone 38 (col. 4 lines 41-45). The printer 10 also has a heater assembly 80 (col. 4 line 40) to heat the paper in a **“second heating area that is coincident with the printing zone 38 so as to effectively apply heat energy to the backside of the recording medium 16 during printing.”** (col. 4 line 56-59). In the second

heating area 54, the heater assembly 80 has a flat heating member 90 on which the paper lies when the sheet 16 is in the printing zone 38 (col. 5 lines 22-23 and FIGs. 1 and 2). The heating assemblies 52 and 80 are to remove moisture in the paper “**before and during the printing**” (col. 4 line 20) so that the ink will penetrate the paper quicker (col. 4 lines 18-24) and not, as written in Applicants’ claim 1 preamble and quoted by the Examiner, to “minimize distortion of the media.”

In order to support a §102 rejection, a reference must describe every element of a claim, in the exact manner claimed.

Peter does not disclose, teach, or suggest a heated media deflector to guide the media as recited by Applicants. Peter instead describes a flat heating assembly 80 that is not a deflector and does not guide the media.

Moreover, Peter does not disclose, teach, or suggest that the heated media deflector is located downstream of the printing zone as recited by Applicants. Peter instead expressly describes that the heating assembly 80 is “coincident with the printing zone 38” to “apply heat energy to the backside of the recording medium 16 during printing.” (Col. 4 lines 56-59).

Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 includes elements that are not described by Peter and is therefore patentable over Peter.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) REJECTION

In the priority Application # 09/984,931, the Examiner rejected claim 18 in an April 21, 2003 Office Action under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,132, 038 to Szlucha (hereafter Szlucha) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,761,597 to Smith et. al. (hereafter Smith).

Claim 18 defines a heated media deflector comprising:

a deflector that includes
a plastic support portion;
a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic portion; and
a heating resistor attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal.

Szulcha describes a path along which a sheet moves in a printer (col. 3 lines 46-47, FIGs. 1 and 2). The path includes a chute 46 having an outer guide member 48 and an inner guide member 50 (FIGs. 1 and 2, col. 3 lines 55-57).

At a different position along the path, the chute is coupled to a separate wire basket 80 that itself supports a separate heater 70 (col. 6 21-24). **The heater 70 is disposed between the print zone and the chute 46** (col. 5 line 61, FIGs. 1, 2, 3). As seen in FIGs. 1, 2, and 3, and described in col. 6 lines 53-64, the heater 70 is smooth surfaced for advancing a sheet in the print zone from the separate chute 46 (col. 6 lines 23-24 and FIGs. 1, 2, 3).

Szulcha does not disclose, teach, or suggest a deflector that includes a heating resistor attached to a bottom face of a sheet metal, as recited by Applicants. Instead, Szulcha describes a heater 70 supported by a basket 80 that is coupled to a separate chute 46. The heater 70 and the chute 46 are disposed at different positions along the print path. The heater 70 is not a part of the chute 46. Szulcha does not disclose, teach, or suggest a deflector that includes a plastic portion as recited by Applicants. Szulcha does not disclose, teach, or suggest a deflector having a sheet metal portion that is attached to the plastic portion as recited by Applicants. Szulcha does not disclose, teach, or suggest a deflector having a heating resistor attached to the bottom face of the sheet metal as recited by Applicants.

Smith describes a fuser assembly 19 (col. 5 line 23) to fixedly fuse, through a high pressure nip, an image to a medium (col. 1 lines 11-15). The fusing apparatus 19 includes a backing plate 50 to hold the medium in place

Adjacent to the backing plate is an aluminum heat sink 51 that contacts a heater 52. The heater 52 is backed by an insulator 54. The insulator 54 is to prevent heat from building up in the printer. (FIG. 5, col. 6 lines 8-12).

Smith does not disclose, teach, or suggest a plastic support portion. Smith describes the insulator 54 as being a (heat) insulator 54, and does not disclose, teach, or suggest the insulator as being plastic, as supporting the backing plate 50, or as even being attached to the baking plate 50.

Moreover, Smith does not disclose, teach, or suggest the backing plate 50 as being attached to the heater resistor, as recited by Applicants. Smith does not disclose, teach, or suggest a deflector having a plastic portion, as recited by Applicants. Smith does not disclose, teach, or suggest a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic portion as recited by Applicants. Smith does not disclose, teach, or suggest a heating resistor attached to the bottom face of the sheet metal, as recited by Applicants.

Therefore, Szulcha and Smith, neither separately nor together, disclose, teach, or suggest the elements recited by Applicants in claim 18, namely a deflector that includes a deflector that includes a plastic support portion, a sheet metal portion attached to the plastic portion, and a heating resistor attached to a bottom face of the sheet metal. Therefore Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is not unpatentable over Szulcha in view of Smith.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully suggests that claims 1, 3-13, and 19-30 are in condition for allowance.

Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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